

Please amend the present application as follows:

In the Claims

Please substitute the following clean copy text for the pending claims of the same number, and cancel claim 18 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer.

11. (Thrice Amended) A segmental retaining wall system comprising:

a wall block including:

an interior face for forming an interior surface of a segmental retaining wall;

an exterior face for forming an exterior surface of the segmental retaining wall;

first and second sides that extend from said exterior face to said interior face;

a top surface and a bottom surface; and

retaining means for retaining a reinforcement member to the wall block, said retaining means including a channel defined by a front wall, a rear wall, and a channel bottom surface and extending across one of said wall block faces and surfaces, at least one of said front wall and rear wall having an inwardly extending shoulder associated therewith.

12. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein said retaining means comprises a retaining bar that is sized and configured to fit within said channel.

E3 14. (Thrice Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein said inwardly extending shoulder is associated with said rear wall of said channel.

E4 20¹⁶. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein said wall block is formed of a concrete material.

21¹⁷. (Once Amended) A method for forming a segmental retaining wall, said method comprising the steps of:

stacking a plurality of wall blocks in aligned courses, a plurality of said wall blocks having a channel formed therein, the channel including at least one inwardly extending shoulder; and

securing at least one reinforcement member to the wall with a retaining bar that overlaps the reinforcement member within the channel;

wherein the retaining bar in cooperation with the channel secures the reinforcement member to the wall when tensile forces are imposed upon the reinforcement member.

E5 22¹⁹. (Once Amended) The method of claim 21¹⁷, wherein the at least one inwardly extending shoulder is formed with a curved lip.

Please add the following *new* claims:

E6 28. (Newly Added) The system of claim 13 wherein the inwardly extending shoulder is associated with said front wall of said channel.

¹⁸
21. (Newly Added) The system of claim 13 wherein an inwardly extending shoulder is associated with said front wall of said channel and an inwardly extending shoulder is associated with said rear wall of said channel.

ES ¹⁷
22. (Newly Added) The system of claims 11, 14, or ¹⁶~~20~~, wherein said inwardly extending shoulder is integrally formed with its associated channel wall.

¹⁹
23. (Newly Added) The system of claim ¹⁸~~21~~, wherein each inwardly extending shoulder is integrally formed with its associated channel wall.
